

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION EA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2252

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 5783

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, TH

SUBJECT: PLANS TO FORM NEW PARTY PROCEED AT KHON KAEN MEETING.

FOLLOWING TEL RECEIVED FROM UDORN DATED APRIL 9, 1974 SENT

ACTION BANGKOK, INFO CHIANG MAI BEING RPTD FOR YOUR INFO.

QUOTE

CONFIDENTIAL UDORN 89

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, TH

SUBJECT: FORMER MPS MEET SECRETLY TO FORM UNIFIED PARTY

REFERENCE: UDORN 77

1. SUMMARY: ABOUT SEVENTY FORMER MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT FROM
NORTHEAST HAVE REPORTEDLY MET SECRETLY SEVERAL TIMES IN RECENT
WEEKS TO ESTABLISH UNIFIED PARTY FOR FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS.

WIWAT INTRAUDOM, FORMER SAHA PRACHA THAI GOVT PARTY MP FROM
UDORN, SAID THEY INCLUDE MOSTLY FORMER SPT MEMBERS, BUT SOME
FROM SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY AND OTHERS. ANOTHER FORMER UDORN
SPT MP, SAWAENT PHIBOONSARAWUT, SAID GROUP PLANS TO FIELD ABOUT
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200 CANDIDATES NATION WIDE, INCLUDING CANDIDATES FOR ALL 94

SEATS IN NORTHEAST. END SUMMARY.

2. WIWAT INTRAUDOM TOLD US MAR 25 THAT WHILE HE PREFERRED RUN AS INDEPENDENT HE HAS MET SEVERAL TIMES PAST FEW WEEKS WITH ABOUT 70 FORMER MPS TO DISCUSS FORMATION NEW PARTY, SINCE ELECTORAL LAW MAY REQUIRE PARTY MEMBERSHIP. WIWAT SAID NO PRESS REPORTS ABOUT GROUP SINCE MEMBERS PLEDGED SECRECY. GROUP SO FAR HAS NO LEADER NOR NAME.

3. WIWAT SAID GROUP MOSTLY SPT MEMBERS INCLUDING SAWAENG PHIBOONSARAWUT FROM UDORN AND BODAENG CHANTHASEN FROM SAKHON NAKHON. OTHERS, HOWEVER, ARE SAKAN SAMSNE, UDORN INDEPENDENT, AND FONG AND YING SITTHITHAM, Ubon SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY.

4. WHEN WE CALLED AT SAWAENG'S HOME LATER, WE SAW THREE MEN LEAVING WHOM HE TOLD US WERE FORMER MPS WHO HAD JOINED GROUP WITH HIM. WE RECOGNIZED ONE AS NOI THINARAT, FORMER SPT MP FROM KORAT.

5. SAWAENT SAID HALF OF THOSE WHO HAD ALREADY JOINED GROUP WERE FORMER MPS. GROUP PLANNED CONTEST ABOUT 200 SEATS OUT OF 299 THROUGHOUT COUNTRY, INCLUDING ALL 94 IN NORTHEAST.

6. SAWAENT SAID OBJECTIVE OF GROUP WAS TO FIND STRONG LEADER TO SOLVE NATION'S PROBLEMS. HE SAID THAILAND NEEDS ANOTHER SARIT BUT GAVE NO INDICATION WHOM HE THOUGHT WOULD FIT THE BILL.

7. SAWAENG SAID NEXT MEETING OF GROUP SCHEDULED KHON KAEN END OF MAR. YING ALSO TOLD US IN Ubon MAR 22 THAT 30 SDP MEMBERS FROM SEVERAL PROVINCES PLANNED MEET LATE MAR, ALTHOUGH HE SAID SDP WOULD NOT UNITE WITH OTHER PARTIES.

8. BOTH WIWAT AND SAWAENG AGREED THAT ELECTIONS NOT LIKELY TO TAKE PLACE BEFORE FEB 1975. WIWAT SAID HE IN FAVOR OF DIVIDING COUNTRY INTO SINGLE MEMBER CONSTITUENCIES WHICH HE HAD LEARNED ABOUT WHEN HE VISITED U.S. IN 1971.

9. WIWAT SPECULATED THAT IN UDORN ABOUT 50 CANDIDATES, INCLUDING FORMER MPS YUANG IAMSILA, SOMKID SRISANGKHOM, SAKAN SAMSEN, SAKAI SAMSEN, SAWAENG AND HIMSELF WOULD SEEK EIGHT
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SEATS IN PROVINCE.

10. SAWAENG ALSO SAID GOVERNMENT POLICY TOWARD INSURGENCY WAS ESPECIALLY MISGUIDED. HE SAID IF GOVERNMENT WON PEOPLE BY BRINGING DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL SERVICES TO VILLAGERS, COMMUNIST THREAT WOULD DISAPPEAR. BROH-KAHN. GDS. UNQUOTE
KINTNER

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